

path of freedom, and Khalistan will be ours. Sikhs are looking forward to 1999, the 300th anniversary of the Sikh nation. On that day Sikhs will proudly hoist the Sikh flag high above the Golden Temple and thank Guru for the long awaited blessing of freedom in a sovereign, independent Khalistan.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE KHALISTAN SOCIETY: SPEAKERS EXPOSE INDIAN STATE REPRESSION, SUPPORT SELF-DETERMINATION FOR KHALISTAN

LONDON.—The movement for Punjab's national independence received a historic boost today, as the Khalistan Society launched its Inaugural meeting here at The London School of Economics. Three invited speakers, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President, Council of Khalistan, Mr. Max Madden, British Member of Parliament, and Mr. Asad Rehman, a representative of London based Amnesty International, stressed the moral imperative to hold India accountable for extensive and continuing human rights violations against the Sikh people and other minorities in India. They also urged the massive British Asian community to mobilize its resources to protect the rights of those fighting for freedom in India-occupied Punjab.

Mr. Max Madden told audience members of his trip to Punjab in 1991, when he visited Sikh villages and a Punjabi jail, speaking to literally hundreds of people who had suffered human rights abuses by Indian police forces. "I met a father whose 12 year old daughter was abducted by policemen, raped repeatedly, and eventually killed. Policemen warned the father that were he to pursue a case against the officers involved, his 7 year old daughter would face the same fate." He recalled meeting Mr. K.P.S. Gill, former Punjab Chief of Police, who he described as "the epitome of evil." Mr. Madden reiterated the right of the people of Punjab to self-determination, and congratulated The Khalistan Society for its efforts to highlight human rights violations against the Sikhs in Punjab. He told the audience, "Because of my human rights activities, the Indian High Commission refuses to grant me a visa to visit India."

Mr. Asad Rehman stressed the need to put human rights on the agenda of governments in South Asia. He detailed the violent and anti-democratic tactics used by India to crush political dissent, and drew comparisons between such tactics used in occupied Punjab and other parts of India. He stressed the importance of peaceful self-determination in Punjab, stating, "Everyone must have the right to express their political beliefs freely, whatever they may be, without fear of imprisonment, torture or death."

Dr. Gurmit S. Aulakh strongly denounced the Indian government for its continuing policy of state repression against Sikhs in Punjab, Muslims in Kashmir, and Christians in Nagaland. He spoke of the case of Mr. Jaswant Singh Khaira, a Sikh human rights activist in Punjab who has recently "disappeared" and is feared to be dead. Dr. Aulakh detailed the history of the Sikh struggle for freedom, and articulated his vision of a Khalistani state. "Khalistan will be a buffer state between India and Pakistan, and will sign Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaties, thereby increasing regional peace and security. We will also operate on a 'one man, one vote' policy. In a free Khalistan, there will be no human rights violations, and minorities will be treated equally."

STATEMENT BY DAVID SMITH  
REGARDING CAMPAIGN FINANCING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by David Smith, a high school student from Brattleboro, VT, who was speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people:

A couple of days ago, I heard two men laughing about the term, "representation of the people," claiming that the people are no longer really represented. Unfortunately, I'm beginning to agree with this, because I have a problem believing that a politician is going to think about me—the average voter—when the oil and gas industry gives Congress \$17-18 million annually; when the health industry gives \$68.8 million, when the banking industry gives \$42.1 million; and that's just to name a few. Our government is overrun by the influences of special interest groups, industries, corporations, unions and other bit spenders.

But you, the politicians, are also stuck, because the average House election is up way past \$150,000; the average Senate election is up past \$3.5 million. And that's average, which means that the backwater, small-time candidate has no chance of competing with the mainstream Republican or Democrat, because he or she has no corporate, big-spender backing. In short our campaign finance system is outdated, flawed, and full to the brim with loopholes. We need changes.

What I'm proposing today is a publicly financed system. My proposal starts in September, 8 months before an election, with candidates collecting low-dollar contributions. This is the only private money in my whole system; and, since it's low-dollar, it doesn't have any influence over a candidate. This seen money lasts until the first primary in February. To qualify for public financing, candidates must receive 20% of the vote. Parties may also qualify for public financing by getting 20% of the vote between two candidates, and sending their most winning . . . candidate to run. Candidates who receive the required vote will receive an account of money to work with.

In addition to monetary funds, the candidates will also receive radio and TV space. But instead of getting 45 second soundbites, candidates will receive 15 minute blocks, almost like "informercials," and this will force them to really discuss in detail their platforms. And you can also get debates going, and really educate the public. Lastly, government will pay for one or two mass mailings per candidate. Winners of the national conventions will then be given money to campaign in the general election.

Now, how are we going to pay for this? The Working Group on Electoral Democracy estimated that a plan similar to this one would cost between \$5-600 million annually. And I've devised two ways to pay for this: the first is a \$6 flat tax on every taxpaying American. Unfortunately, the taxpayers don't really want another tax. So, an alternative plan would be a one dollar check-off box on tax returns for Congressional funding, right next to the one for Presidential funding. Also, a one percent shift in funds from the military to campaign finances, and last, the first national lotto game. Vermont alone already receives around \$23 million in funds from various lotto games, and I think that a national lottery game could bring in at least half of the money needed to fund this campaign system.

What this system will do, is it will do 5 things: first, it will stop all public legislation from being influenced by the wealth of industries, corporations, all private money will be taken out of politics. Second, it creates a level playing field for all candidates, rich and poor candidates must have the same chance of being elected as everyone else, and voters must start to elect candidates on their merits, not on their money. Thirdly, it allows politicians to spend their time at politics, not at campaigning. I've heard that politicians spend between anywhere from 40-80% of their time campaigning. In this system, they would spend 5% of their time campaigning. [Fourth] it will allow politicians to get in touch with what voters want, not what the heavy contributors want. If they have to go to the grassroots to get their support, then there will be more talk about what the real voters want. Finally, it closes down all loopholes, so that no private money can influence the private system, and we will return to the ideal of "representation of the people."

Congressman SANDERS. Thank you. (Applause) You've touched on a very important issue. David, let me ask you a couple of questions. First, give us some examples, if you might, of the role that big money plays in influencing politics, influencing legislation. Do you have any examples that you might be able to provide?

Answer. Sure. A little while ago, the Legislature allocated money for the Pentagon to build new bombers. This was in spite of the Pentagon saying that, "We don't want any new bombers, we don't want the money." The reason the money was allocated, was because of the influence of the corporations that make and help produce those bombers. They have such power, with their monetary funds that they can almost shape the way legislation works.

Congressman SANDERS: You're absolutely right, that is a very good example. Let me ask you the second question: recently the Speaker of the House went on a tour around the country, and he spoke at \$10,000/plate fundraising dinners; \$10,000/plate to have dinner with House Speaker Gingrich. Why would anybody pay \$10,000—it was a very good dinner, no doubt—but other than the good quality food, and you think of another good reason why someone would want to go to dinner with the Speaker for \$10,000/plate?

Answer. Sure. It was influence. By paying \$10,000 to a candidate, you get influence over that candidate so they will better represent what you want. An example: if I was a politician and I came back to the office one day and there were 14 messages for me; 13 were from people I never heard of, and the last was from someone who has paid me \$10,000 at a local charity the week before, the first person I'm going to call back is that big payer. So, by paying lots of money, we get more influence.

THE "ONE CHINA" POLICY

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, when the status of United States relations with China and/or Taiwan is debated, references are often made to the "One China" policy. This policy dates back to the Shanghai Communiqué, which since 1972 has formed the legal framework of Sino-American relations. It